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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/507,484	02/10/2000	Craig Henry Becker	TU9-99-063/IBMT-025	7554

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

STONE, JONATHAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/507,484

Applicant(s)

BECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan D Stone

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2178

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 2/10/00.
2. IDS filed on 2/10/00 (paper 2).
3. Claims 1-27 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 14, 27 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al (herein Logan; USPN 5761683 – filing date 2/13/1996) in view of Cohen et al (herein Cohen; USPN 6377983 – filing date 11/13/1998).

5. **Regarding independent claim 1, 14, 27**, Logan teaches identifying the hyperlinks present in a web page after a user has indicated the retrieval of the page through a kiosk, the kiosk being coupled to the World Wide Web (col 1, ln 60 – col 2, ln 17). Logan teaches the analysis of said hyperlinks (col 2, ln 1-17 and ln 33-53). Logan also teaches the displaying of the web page, including presentation modifications (col 5, ln 62 – col 6, ln 5).

Logan does not explicitly teach determining if a predefined access group has accessed a particular hyperlink and further consulting a database to determine characteristics of the underlying data only if it was previously accessed by said group. However, Logan does teach

Art Unit: 2178

referencing a database of stored items against which the web pages being reviewed is compared (col 2, ln 1-17). Logan also teaches comparing content of the web page with item in a table to determine the appropriate associated presentation modifications (col 2, ln 33-52). Additionally, Cohen teaches determining whether one or more users in a predefined group have previously accessed a hyperlink (col 3, ln 16-47). The indication of a previously accessed hyperlink is presented to a user if and only if a predetermined user accessed said hyperlink. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Logan and Cohen in such a way that Cohen's determination of previously accessed hyperlinks would have allowed Logan to access a database to determine page characteristics (e.g. inaccessible to the public) and further modify the web page's presentation based on those characteristics. This would have been a logical addition to Cohen's invention, allowing an administrator to surf the network and define accessibility characteristics for specific pages and the links thereto. Additionally, both Cohen and Logan assist a user by guiding the user along a specific path or in a certain direction, and the combination would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

6. **Regarding dependent claim 2-3, 15-16,** Logan does not explicitly teach an access group having one or multiple users. However, Cohen teaches an access group having one user (col 3, ln 1-15) and multiple users (col 4, ln 3-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Logan and Cohen in order to implement an access group of only one or of multiple users in Logan's invention. A one-user embodiment would have restricted control to an individual, such as a supervisor, or a personal user. Having

Art Unit: 2178

multiple users would have allowed a team of managers to supervise web control. The combination of Logan and Cohen would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

7. **Regarding dependent claim 4, 17,** Logan and Cohen do not explicitly teach choosing from a set of databases prior to analyzing the hyperlink. However, Cohen does teach choosing from a set of access groups (col 4, ln 3-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cohen, combining Cohen with Logan, in order to have a related database associated with each access group be selected along with the related access group. The combination of Logan and Cohen would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

8. **Regarding dependent claim 5, 18,** Logan teaches presenting enhancements including displaying text and graphics (col 2, ln 18-52). Although Logan does not explicitly teach the output of generating sound and providing tactile output, such forms of web page output were known and typical in the art at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include various types of output so as to enable users with disabilities to access the data.

9. **Regarding dependent claims 6, 9, 13, 19, 22, 26,** Logan teaches presentation modifications including various permutations of textual output, such as annotations. Logan does

Art Unit: 2178

not explicitly teach the presentation of a version free from enhancements, the enhancements appearing upon a cursor being placed proximate to the enhanced area or the hyperlink analyzing occurring upon receipt of the input. However, it was known and typical in the art at the time of the invention for web pages and other software to output text and annotations in the form of popup bubbles, as in help environments or for more detailed information regarding underlying data (reference applicant's admitted prior art, JP11039310). In such embodiments the page is presented free from any enhancements without a proper user input. When a cursor is placed proximate to the hyperlink, the hyperlink is analyzed and the appropriate presentation modification is displayed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize pop-up windows to ease the workload of a user by reducing the number of clicks with a mouse a user must perform to see additional information.

10. **Regarding dependent claims 7, 20**, Logan teaches a presentation modification that inserts an extra web page in between the originating web page and the underlying data such that a mouse click may be required to navigate to the enhancement, and then proceed to the underlying data (col 2, ln 18-32).

11. **Regarding dependent claims 10, 23**, Logan does not explicitly teach recording characteristics of underlying data in a database when a link to that data is selected. However, Cohen teaches saving information regarding a sequence of documents accessed by a user (col 3, ln 15-47). The information saved includes various characteristics about the documents accessed.

Art Unit: 2178

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Logan and Cohen, using a database to store the information taught above. Both Cohen and Logan assist a user by guiding the user along a specific path or in a certain direction, and the combination would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

12. **Regarding dependent claims 11, 24,** Logan does not explicitly teach various characteristics of underlying data being stored. However, Cohen teaches a number of data characteristics being saved, including if the page was arrived at via selection of a stored bookmark (indicating the user has bookmarked the underlying data). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cohen and Logan. Such a combination would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

13. **Regarding dependent claims 12, 25,** Logan teaches enhancements in the presentation of data that includes addition of images, and various modifications of text (col 2, ln 18-53).

Claims 8, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Cohen and in further view of Fogg et al (herein Fogg; USPN 6163778 – filing date 2/6/1998).

14. **Regarding dependent claims 8, 21,** Logan and Cohen do not explicitly teach soliciting a user specification of a user rating or representative multimedia symbols and recording the

Art Unit: 2178

response in a database. However, Fogg does teach acquiring rating information based on a user's attempted access of a hyperlink or page and further storing the rating in a database (col 1, ln 51 – col 2, ln 10 and Fig. 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Fogg with Logan and Cohen. Such a combination would have provided a user with better navigation assistance by pointing a user in the right direction.

15. Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to disclosure.

US-6,557,015

to:

Bates et al.

US-6,411,996

to:

Albers, Michael C.

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan D Stone whose telephone number is (703) 305-7854.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications. Responses to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

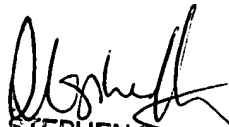
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Art Unit: 2178

Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

JDS
July 14, 2003


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER